

# 19 Individual sample file

## OVERVIEW

In summary, the 2009–10 sample file:

- represents 1% of returns lodged by individuals
- contains around 124,000 individual records
- contains 50 data items, including demographic information such as gender, marital status, year of birth (five-year range), occupation code (one digit level) and geographic region (based on postcodes) – the remainder of the data items are income, deductions, losses and some other indicators sourced from individual tax returns.

## INTRODUCTION

In the *Taxation statistics 2006–07* publication, the ATO released confidentialised 1% sample files containing individual tax return information. This was an attempt to satisfy the requirements of more advanced users of tax data and further demonstrates our commitment to an open and transparent tax system.

The files are confidentialised in order to protect the identities of those contained in the files. Last year, sample files were released for the 2003–04 to 2008–09 income years. The data in these sample files was based on data contained in *Taxation statistics* for each of these income years.

This year we are releasing the sample file for the 2009–10 income year based on data contained in *Taxation statistics 2009–10*.

## OBJECTIVES

To meet demand in the tax community for information:

- to meet the data needs of many advanced users of tax data by allowing them to source the information directly from the sample file rather than being limited to the publicly available data (in *Taxation statistics*) or having to request data from the ATO
- to provide a more detailed range of data, including views not previously published by the ATO.

To allow for greater depth and breadth of information to be generated from researchers:

- to enable researchers to access data at a finer level than is currently available in the *Taxation statistics* publication
- to allow researchers to model the impact on individual taxpayers of changes to the tax system and conduct more detailed research and analysis
- to stimulate academic insight and findings, possibly previously not examined by the ATO.

To provide other benefits:

- to maximise the use of ATO data at minimal cost
- to demonstrate greater accountability and openness on the part of the ATO.

## ACCESSING THE FILES

The sample files may be accessed by anyone conducting legitimate research. To request access to the files, send an email to [taxstats@ato.gov.au](mailto:taxstats@ato.gov.au).

## SOURCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL SAMPLE FILE

The data used to compile the 2009–10 unit record sample file has been sourced from the 2009–10 individual income tax returns processed by 31 October 2011.

## LIST OF INDIVIDUAL SAMPLE FILE DETAILED TABLES

The following individual sample file detailed tables are on the attached CD-ROM and included in the online version of this publication on our website. You can view or download the tables in PDF or Excel format.

**Table 1    Items included in the 2009–10 individual sample file**

This table contains specifications for the items included in the 2009–10 individual sample file.